[*Translation*]

Import of Electronic Coting Machines

2816. SHRI RAM KRISHNA KUSMARIA:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import electronic voting machines;

(b) if so, the number thereof; and

(c) the names of the countries from which these machines are likely to be purchased?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Export of Onion and Red Chillies

2817. DR. V. RAJESWARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether traders dealing with onions and red chillies in Tamil Nadu have been allowed to export these commodities to gulf countries to earn foreign exchange; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent steep rise in prices of these items in domestic market?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) It is open to any trader to export onions as an associate shipper of NAFED, which is the canalising agency. Export of red chillies is allowed on de-controlled basis.

(b) In case of items of mass consumption, restrictions such as quantitative ceilings or a complete ban on export of agricultural products are stipulated where necessary.

[*Translation*]

Upgradation of Cities

2818. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have upgraded Bikaner as 'B' class city;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of requests for upgradation of cities are pending with the Government;

(d) if so, the names of cities in each State in respect of which such requests have been received; and

(e) the time by which decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b). Bikaner has been upgraded as 'B-2' class city for the purpose of grant of House Rent Allowance/ Compensatory (City) Allowance to Central Government employees.

(c) to (e). According to the existing criterion. upgradation/re-classification of cities for the purpose of grant of HRS/CCA is done